BATMAN
DC
ALL IN
15+ TEEN+
13
DRAGOTTA
SNYDER
DRAGOTTA
MARTIN

This school has secrets. So does she.
GOTHAM ACADEMY
FIRST YEAR
Writers
BRENDEN FLETCHER,
KARL KERSCHL,
and BECKY CLOONAN
return to the fan-favorite series
Art by
MARCO FERRARI
Covers by KARL KERSCHL
6 issues
Go back to school this
OCTOBER
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I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD THAT IN YOU, WAYNE.
BACK THERE WITH FALCONE. I'M IMPRESSED.
"IF THE RULES AREN'T FAIR..." RIGHT, KYLE?
HEY. LOOK AT ME.
THIS IS HOW WAYLON WINS. HOW WE ALL WIN.

# PART FIVE

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DRAGOTTA & MARTIN
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EXECUTIVE EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

WHY ARE YOU *HERE*, SELINA?
LOOK AT US. OUR EARS MATCH. I'M HERE BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER CALLED ME.

I'LL ASK *ONE* MORE TIME.

SHE DID, ACTUALLY. BUT COME ON, BRUCE. YOU'VE BEEN MISSING FOR *MONTHS*. I WAS WORRIED, ALL RIGHT? I CAME TO HELP.

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.

*CLEARLY.* I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT SUCH A SUPERSTAR TEAM ALREADY.
DINK DINK

*UNH...* I...I'VE READ ABOUT YOU. *THE CATWOMAN.* WHAT YOU PULLED IN *PENANG*. NO LOYALTY, NO--

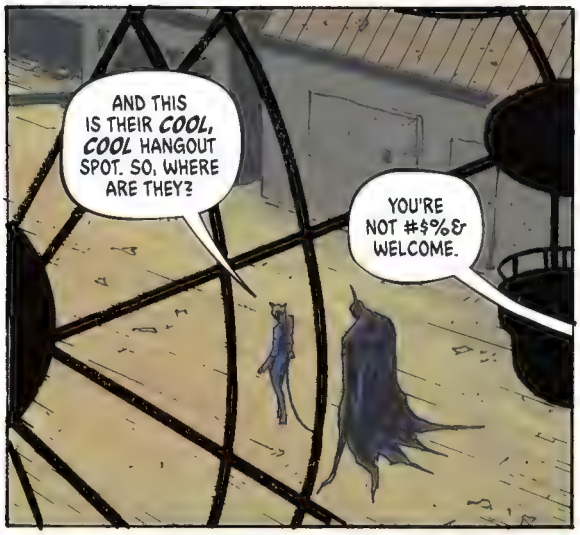
GAK!
ALL RIGHT, LOOK. IF I'M NOT WANTED...
...WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
*COUGH* DON'T TRUST HER, KID! YOU DON'T WANT--
*ENOUGH,* PENNYWORTH.
I DON'T NEED THE ADVICE.
SHE'S *LEAVING.* RIGHT #$%& *NOW.*

THIS IS NICE.
SOFTY.
NEVER.

BRUCE?
WHAT DID THEY *DO* TO YOU?
IS THAT *REALLY* WHAT YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, SE?
NO.

SO YOUR HELMET...
...IT LOOKS *A LOT* LIKE THE GEAR *BLACK MASK* USES...
IS THAT *REALLY* WHAT *YOU* WANT TO TALK ABOUT, BRUCE?
NO.
YOU WANT TO GO ON A DATE?

THEY'RE CALLED THE RED HOOD. THEY'RE AN OUTLAW COLLECTIVE. HACKING, DISRUPTION... WE HAD A LOOSE ALLIANCE.


AND THIS IS THEIR COOL, COOL HANGOUT SPOT. SO, WHERE ARE THEY?
YOU'RE NOT #$%& WELCOME.

"STAND DOWN"--WASN'T THAT YOUR ORDER TO US?* BUT WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM ANYONE, DO WE?
NOPE.
HELL NO.
GET OUT.
*SEE ABSOLUTE BATMAN #12!

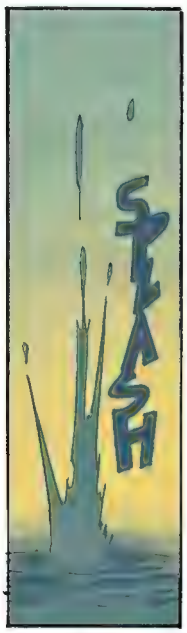
WE'RE NOT LEAVING UNTIL WE SPEAK WITH YOUR LEADER.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN! GET THEM!

I LIKE THIS DATE.
--KILL YOU, BITCHES--

RUDE.
THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THEY'RE JUST KIDS!
YOU KNOW I HATE KIDS.
TAKE IT EASY. JUST A CAT NAP.
CLAK
LOOK OUT!
FIRE IN THE H--

RAHHH!
KRAKK!!

BOOM
AAAA'EE!

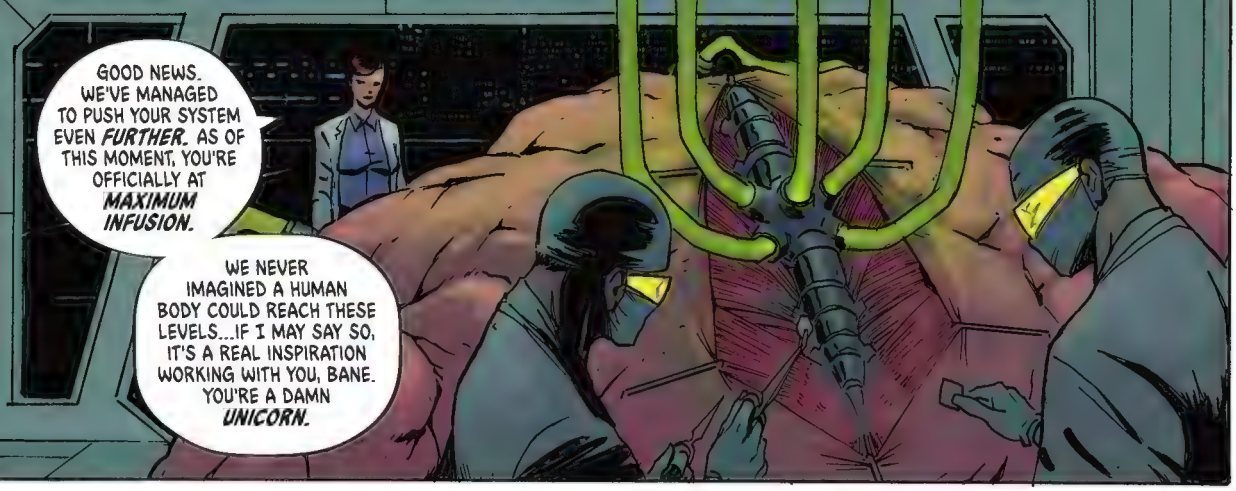

SPLASH

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? ARE YOU ALL R--

GET AWAY FROM ME!
NOW!

UNNH!
HOLY... LOOK AT HIM! HE'S ONE OF THEM!
BOSS WAS RIGHT! THEY ARE MAKING MONSTERS...
BRUCE, LISTEN TO MY VOICE. I'M RIGHT HERE...
...YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN, OKAY? GET IT UNDER CONTROL.
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! WHILE HE'S--
WAIT. I TOLD YOU TO STAND DOWN BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS THEY ALMOST BROKE ME. IN A PLACE CALLED ARK M, WHERE THEY DO MAKE MONSTERS. ABOMINATIONS LIKE A MAN CALLED BANE.
BUT THEY DIDN'T BREAK ME. AND NOW I'M GOING TO DESTROY HIM. AND NOT JUST HIM. HIS BOSSES, ARK M... I'M GOING TO BURN IT ALL TO THE &$%#@ GROUND. BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU'RE THE ABOMINATION, MAN! GET 'EM!
HOLD IT!
I WAS NEVER SURE ABOUT YOU. I'M STILL NOT. BUT IF YOU'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT BURNING DOWN ARK M...

...NOW YOU'RE SPEAKIN' MY @#$% LANGUAGE.
NAME'S HARLEY QUINN. LEADER OF THE RED HOOD.
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?


GOOD NEWS. WE'VE MANAGED TO PUSH YOUR SYSTEM EVEN *FURTHER*. AS OF THIS MOMENT, YOU'RE OFFICIALLY AT *MAXIMUM INFUSION*.
WE NEVER IMAGINED A HUMAN BODY COULD REACH THESE LEVELS...IF I MAY SAY SO, IT'S A REAL INSPIRATION WORKING WITH YOU, BANE. YOU'RE A DAMN *UNICORN*.

"A WILD ASS, GOOD FOR WORK, WHOSE MEAT IS TOO BITTER TO EAT." THAT'S FROM THE FIRST EVER DESCRIPTION OF A UNICORN, DOCTOR. CTESIAS, FIFTH CENTURY B.C.
SOON YOU'LL HAVE MY *REPLACEMENT*, AND *HE'LL* HAVE HIS NEW BANE. THEN, I'LL FINALLY GO HOME.

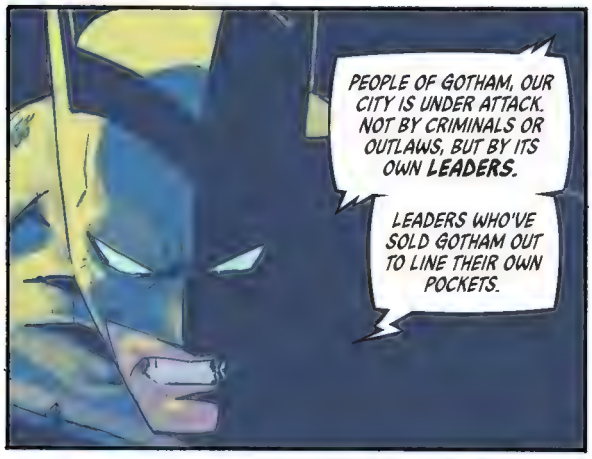
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, BUT... YOU REALLY BELIEVE *HE'LL* LET YOU GO?

...
HE HAS TO. I'VE GIVEN HIM EVERYTHING. ANY MOMENT NOW, BATMAN WILL GIVE IN AND MY WORK WILL BE OVER.

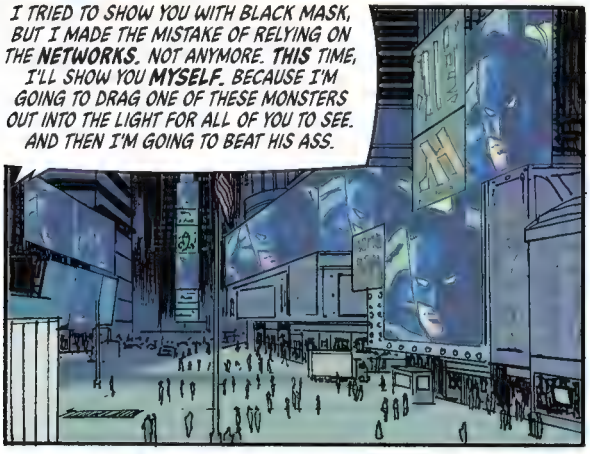
DOCTOR!
YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE THIS.

--REPORTS THAT A WANTON CRIMINAL IS HIJACKING OUR NEWS FEED! WE HAVE A DIRECT QUOTE FROM MAYOR HILL...

LIVE
HE SAYS, "MY FELLOW GOTHAMITES, I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO LISTEN TO A WORD THIS MASKED LUNATIC--"
SHUT UP.
BREAKING

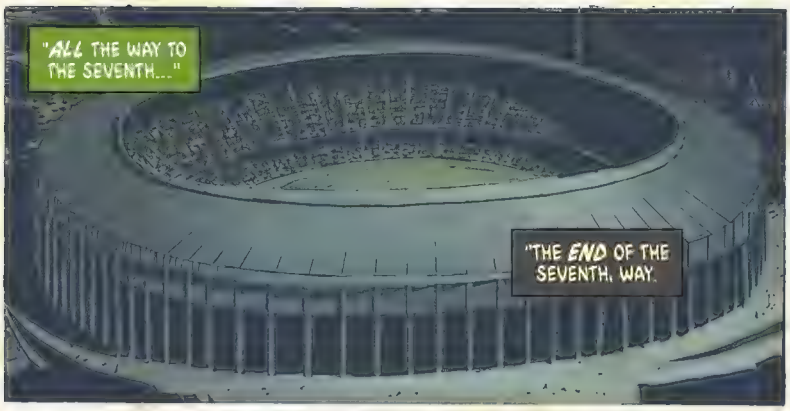

PEOPLE OF GOTHAM, OUR CITY IS UNDER ATTACK. NOT BY CRIMINALS OR OUTLAWS, BUT BY ITS OWN LEADERS.
LEADERS WHO'VE SOLD GOTHAM OUT TO LINE THEIR OWN POCKETS.

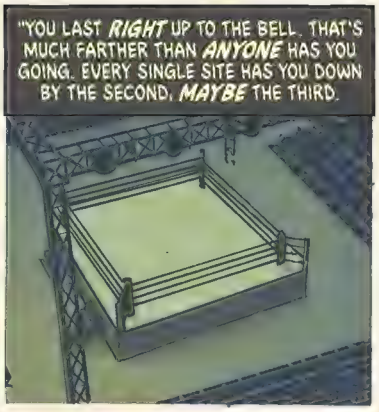
THEY'VE SOLD OUR SAFETY, OUR FREEDOM...THERE'S NOTHING THEY WON'T SELL. THEY'VE EVEN SOLD THE GROUND BENEATH OUR FEET, WHERE RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE GROWING ACTUAL MONSTERS, HORRORS TOO TERRIBLE TO IMAGINE.


I TRIED TO SHOW YOU WITH BLACK MASK, BUT I MADE THE MISTAKE OF RELYING ON THE NETWORKS. NOT ANYMORE. THIS TIME, I'LL SHOW YOU MYSELF. BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DRAG ONE OF THESE MONSTERS OUT INTO THE LIGHT FOR ALL OF YOU TO SEE. AND THEN I'M GOING TO BEAT HIS ASS.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU, BANE. YOU LITTLE #$%&. I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING. TOMORROW. MIDNIGHT. THE OLD VETERAN'S ARENA. YOU. AND ME. ALONE.
YOU WIN, I'LL GO BACK TO ARK M AND BECOME WHATEVER YOU WANT. BUT YOU WON'T WIN. AND YOU, PEOPLE OF GOTHAM, YOU GET TO WATCH.
AND JUST IN CASE ANY OF YOU ARE WONDERING WHO I AM...

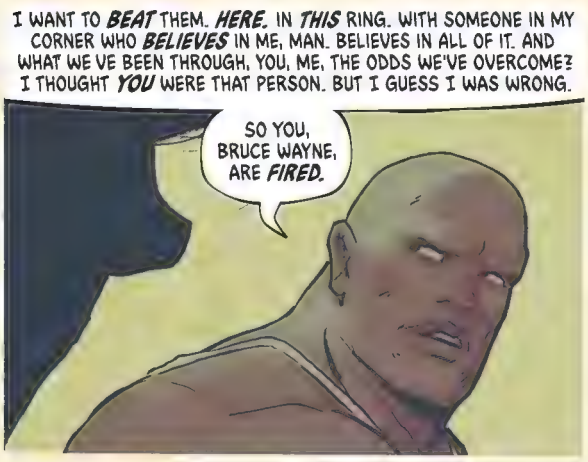
...I'M BATMAN.


"ALL THE WAY TO THE SEVENTH..."
"THE END OF THE SEVENTH. WAY.

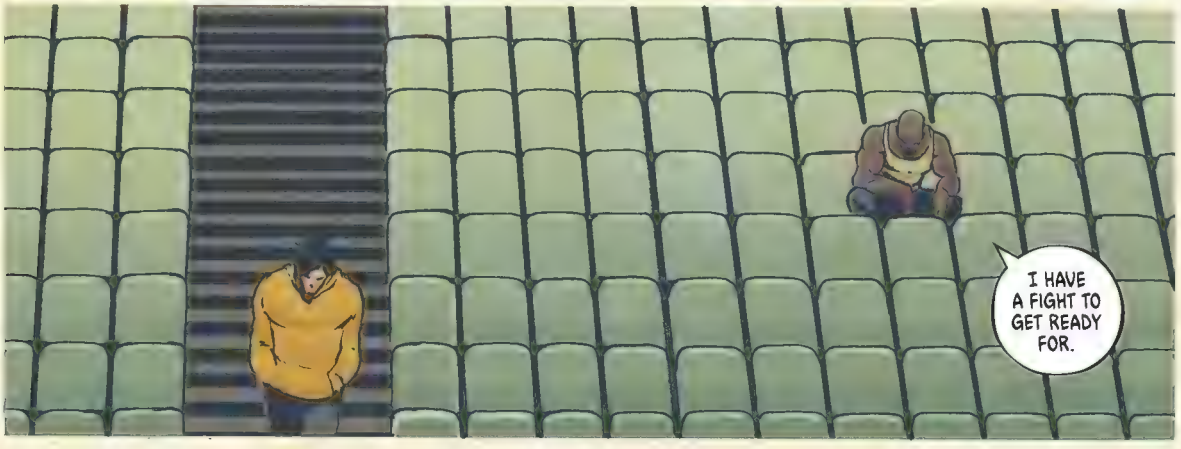

"YOU LAST RIGHT UP TO THE BELL. THAT'S MUCH FARTHER THAN ANYONE HAS YOU GOING. EVERY SINGLE SITE HAS YOU DOWN BY THE SECOND, MAYBE THE THIRD.

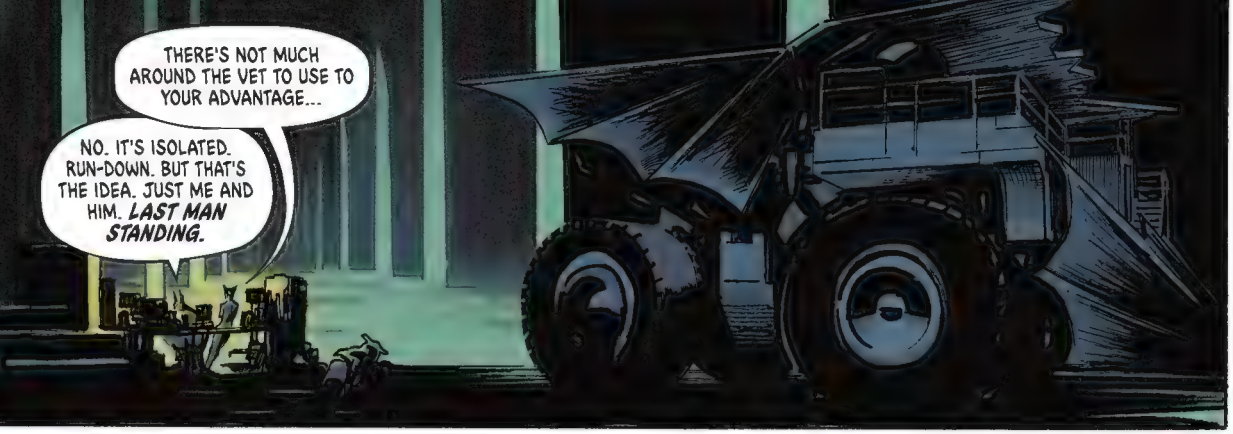
THIS WAY, YOU GO OUT WITH DIGNITY AND YOU MAKE ENOUGH CASH TO OPEN THE GYM. YOU WIN.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I HIRED YOU TO TRAIN ME, BRUCE? I MEAN, SKILL-WISE, YOU'RE MEDIOCRE AT BEST.

I HIRED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND. GUYS LIKE BIBBO, FALCONE... THEY'RE RUINING OUR CITY. SO NO, I DON'T WANT TO CUT A DEAL WITH THEM.


I WANT TO BEAT THEM. HERE. IN THIS RING. WITH SOMEONE IN MY CORNER WHO BELIEVES IN ME, MAN. BELIEVES IN ALL OF IT. AND WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU, ME, THE ODDS WE'VE OVERCOME? I THOUGHT YOU WERE THAT PERSON. BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG.
SO YOU, BRUCE WAYNE, ARE FIRED.

WAY--
NO! AND I'M GOING PAST THE SEVENTH! I'M GOING TO WIN THE WHOLE THING. NOW GO! GET OUT OF HERE!


I HAVE A FIGHT TO GET READY FOR.


THERE'S NOT MUCH AROUND THE VET TO USE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE...
NO. IT'S ISOLATED. RUN-DOWN. BUT THAT'S THE IDEA. JUST ME AND HIM. LAST MAN STANDING.

I GET IT. I JUST... NEED YOU TO PROMISE ME ONE THING.
AND WHAT'S THAT?

DON'T USE THE "VENOM," BRUCE. IT'S WHAT THEY WANT AND IT'S NOT WORTH IT. I'VE SEEN WHAT IT DOES TO PEOPLE.

WHAT IT DOES TO PEOPLE? SE, WHEN I USED IT, I COULD SEE EVERY MOVE THOSE RED HOOD KIDS WERE GOING TO MAKE. I WAS TEN STEPS AHEAD. FIFTY STEPS. I JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO CONTROL IT. BUT VENOM IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN WIN.
IT'S NOT THE ONLY WAY. YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP. I CAN HELP.

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM, WHAT HE CAN DO.

BUT I *HAVE.* AND THEY'RE *MY* FRIENDS, TOO, BRUCE. EVEN WHEN I'M NOT HERE. I WANT TO TAKE THIS BANE DOWN AS BADLY AS YOU DO. BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
"IF THE RULES AREN'T FAIR, STOP PLAYING BY THEM." SOUND FAMILIAR?
...MAYBE I WAS WRONG.
EASY TO SAY *NOW.* LOOK AT YOUR HELMET. YOUR GEAR. DON'T TELL ME YOU GOT WHERE YOU ARE BY PLAYING CLEAN.
NO, I DIDN'T. BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS. YOU ALWAYS WERE.
NOT ANYMORE. I'M GOING TO @3$% *WRECK* HIM, SE. AND I'M *USING* THE VENOM. IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT... THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO. AGAIN.
...
MAYBE I SHOULD. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, WAYNE.
DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU...

I'D ASK YOU IF YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, BUT I KNOW THE ANSWER ALREADY. "FINE."
I AM FINE.
"GOOD. SEE, THIS IS THE PART I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, KID.
"THE PART YOU HAVE TO PUSH THROUGH. THE TUNNEL.
"YOU STOP, YOU EVEN SLOW DOWN, YOU'LL GET GROUND UP.
"SO LET GO OF WHAT YOU WERE. THAT MAN. SOFT. WEAK. BURY HIM DEEP IN THE MUD, AND BECOME WHAT YOU NEED TO BE, WHAT YOU WERE MEANT TO BE. AND RISE...
"...AS THE MONSTER.
"BECAUSE THIS IS WAR. AND THERE ARE NO RULES EXCEPT WINNING."
NEXT: THE FINAL SHOWDOWN!

"Masterfully blends high-octane action with emotional depth."—AIPT
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BEST OF THE BEST
BLACK CANARY VS.
LADY SHIVA!
SIX ROUNDS.
ONE CHAMPION.
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TOM KING
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HARDCOVER
COLLECTED EDITION
AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

# DC K.O.

**DON'T MISS A SINGLE ROUND OF DC'S KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT, FIGHT OF THE CENTURY!**

## OCTOBER:

- ☐ *JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE OMEGA ACT*
- ☐ *DC K.O.* #1
- ☐ *TITANS* #28
- ☐ *SUPERMAN* #31
- ☐ *THE FLASH* #26
- ☐ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED* #12

## NOVEMBER:

- ☐ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT* #1
- ☐ *AQUAMAN* #11
- ☐ *TITANS* #29
- ☐ *DC K.O.* #2
- ☐ *SUPERMAN* #32
- ☐ *THE FLASH* #27
- ☐ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED* #13

***DC K.O.* EXPLODES IN DECEMBER WITH ALL-FIGHT MONTH, AND THE BATTLE CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH 2026!**

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